

MARCH 1985

News and Notes from the
Fellowship Offices

Keeping in Touch

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 304, Los Angeles, CA 90020-9990 (213) 464-5100

JANUARY

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by Feb. 15th, 1985
(In Amount Given)

MCC of the Resurrection -----	Houston, TX	\$ 1652.27
Church of the Holy Spirit --	Ft. Ldl., FL	944.32
MCC Long Beach -----	Long Beach, CA	831.09
MCC Los Angeles -----	Los Angeles, CA	674.70
Christ Chapel MCC -----	Santa Ana, CA	544.98
MCC New York -----	New York, NY	505.50
Agape MCC -----	Ft. Worth, TX	478.38
MCC San Antonio -----	San Antonio, TX	414.28
Joy MCC -----	Orlando, FL	351.32
MCC Detroit -----	Detroit, MI	347.21
River City MCC -----	Sacramento, CA	302.83
MCC Albuquerque -----	Albuquerque, NM	302.65
St. Luke's MCC -----	Jacksonville, FL	299.47
MCC of the Pomona Valley ----	Ontario, CA	297.21
Christ the King MCC ---	Oklahoma City, CA	287.96
MCC Mid-Cities -----	Arlington, TX	274.40
MCC Wichita -----	Wichita, KS	271.38
Church of the Holy Spirit- Des Moines, IA		269.60
MCC of Greater Tulsa,-----	Tulsa, OK	266.37
MCC of the Palm Beaches-West Palm Bch, FL		240.41

JANUARY

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by Feb. 15, 1985
(Per Capita)

MCC Topeka -----	Topeka, KS	\$ 30.55
MCC Salem -----	Salem, OR	18.51
Trinity MCC -----	New York, NY	15.82
Covenant MCC -----	Birmingham, AL	15.53
MCC Spokane -----	Spokane, WA	14.72
Christ Chapel MCC -----	Santa Ana, CA	14.57
MCC of Greater Rochester --	Rochester, NY	14.50
MCC Buffalo -----	Buffalo, NY	14.14
Christ the Liberator MCC --	Princeton, NJ	14.08
Apostles of God MCC ----	Sierra Vista, AZ	13.82
Calvary MCC -----	Redwood City, CA	12.67
Johnson County MCC -----	Olathe, KS	12.05
Diablo Valley MCC -----	Concord, CA	11.96
Faith Eternal MCC -----	Springfield, IL	11.75
MCC of Northern Virginia ----	Oakton, VA	11.40
MCC Charlotte -----	Charlotte, NC	11.38
Maranatha MCC -----	Hayward, CA	11.31
MCC Wichita -----	Wichita, KS	10.90
MCC of the Palm Beaches-W. Palm Beach, FL		10.50
MCC San Antonio -----	San Antonio, TX	10.46

PRAISES

Praise God! We have already received over 350 registrations for General Conference -- don't miss our largest family reunion ever, July 1-7, 1985, in Sacramento, California!!!

We have a brand new Study Group in Guadalajara, Mexico! In addition, we have had recent inquiries from Bogota, Columbia and Ecuador.

We have a new group beginning in Mobile, Alabama - keep them in your prayers!

Praise God! Our church in New Zealand has been officially incorporated and registered with the New Zealand government. Among other things, this makes them eligible for the New Zealand Council of Churches, which they will be pursuing.

In addition, our status with the Australian government is also being pursued, in an effort to get Pastor Elect Rev. Samuel Kader, into Melbourne, Australia. Your prayers are coveted!

Rev. Jesse Jackson has been invited to address the General Conference in July in Sacramento - as his plans are not normally finalized until two/three weeks before hand, we do not have a final confirmation -- but we are feeling good about our contact with his assistant and believe that Rev. Jackson may very likely choose to address our Fellowship this summer!

We are very thrilled that MCC Long Beach has donated equipment to the Fellowship that will assist us with making sure those who are hearing impaired will have sound amplification at this General Conference, and also to insure Spanish translation!! Thank you in advance, MCC Long Beach!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Our love and sympathy are extended to both Rev. Ro Halford, and Rev. Ron Bergeron on the deaths of their fathers.

Rev. Steve Pieters requests our prayers as he undergoes special treatment for aids, beginning March 4th, 1985.

GENERAL CONFERENCE XII

Update
by Jim Voltz,
Coordinator

As of Thursday, February 28 we have registered 351 persons and the forms continue to arrive at the Fellowship Offices. The last day of February ended our extended "early bird" registration, but don't let this stop you from attending our "Family Reunion" in Sacramento this summer.

We are continuing to plan more activities and events for both delegates and non-delegates. Please make your hotel reservations directly thru the Visitors Bureau in Sacramento and don't forget to sign up for the extra events at least 24 hours before the event is to occur. We are all looking forward to seeing you at Conference '85 "FREE TO BE."

SAMARITAN COLLEGE

Samaritan College is very happy to announce that we will be awarding the Rev. Nancy Wilson an Honorary Doctorate of Ministries Degree at our commencement ceremonies, May 31, 1985. Those who wish to send letters of congratulations may send them to Samaritan College (3327 Beverly Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90004) by May 24, 1985. Letters received by this date will be presented to Rev. Wilson during commencement. We encourage everyone to attend the commencement ceremonies in order to support and witness the continued growth of our Fellowship seminary.

The Orientation Program Brochures for 1985 have been mailed out to all churches, clergy, student clergy (registered with C.C.C.C.), and Fellowship level lay leaders. We hope you share our excitement in the 1985 programs in New York, Seattle, and Los Angeles. This is one of the most exciting programs Samaritan College has ever offered, and it is our goal to bring Samaritan College Ministries into as many locations as possible. With your continued prayers and financial support we can expand even further. Those interested in attending should have their initial registration in to the College by April 1, 1985.

Another important way in which you can support Samaritan Ministries is through "Samaritan Sunday." Each church takes a sunday of their choice, in the month of May, which is to be set aside for Samaritan Sunday. We will be sending an informational letter and brochure for you to share with your congregations which can be used for this very important celebration. We encourage you to begin planning now for Samaritan Sunday. As a Fellowship it is essential for everyone to support our educational ministry. It is the joy of every christian "TO BE FREE TO LEARN."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Fellowship maintains an up-to-date available pulpit and available clergy list -- please feel free to write us for the latest update.

World Church Extension Sunday Offerings are beginning to come in - please don't forget us this year!

CLERGY! Please don't forget to fill out your CCCC quarterly report forms - these forms, in addition to being used for our updated mailing lists, is required in order for you to be eligible to receive pension benefits!!! If you did not receive your report forms, write immediately to the Chair of the Credentials Committee:

Rev. Claudia Vierra
Chair, C.C.C.C.
805 W. Idaho, Ste. 419
Boise, ID 83702

ALL CONGREGATIONS -- you will be receiving an "ANNUAL REPORT FORM" from our offices that will be used to seat your delegates at General Conference - Watch for it in the mail!

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CHURCH GROUPS WHO HAVE DONATED TO WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION: (as of 2/28/85)

Agape MCC, Ft Worth	MCC in the Valley
Diablo Valley MCC	MCC Cincinnati
MCC by the Sea	MCC Stockton
MCC Seattle	St. Mary's MCC
MCC Key West	Trinity MCC
Christ the Liberator MCC	MCC of Ventura
MCC Nashville	MCC Dayton Parish
Casa De Cristo MCC	MCC Salt Lake City
MCC Sarasota/Bradén	MCC Los Angeles
Calvary MCC	Maranatha MCC
1st MCC of West Hollywood	MCC Lancaster
All God's Children MCC	MCC San Francisco
MCC Topeka	MCC Quad Cities
MCC Mid Cities	MCC San Diego
MCC Birmingham, England	

THANKS ALSO TO ALL THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION!!!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Our prayers are requested for Mary V. Smith, mother of Rev. Elder Freda Smith, who is recovering from surgery. Cards or letters may be sent c/o River City MCC, P.O. Box 20125, Sacramento, CA. 95820

Prayers are also requested for the mother of our General Conference Coordinator, (Jim Voltz) who is ill.

Rev. Perry and his mother request our prayers for Troy's Nephew, Clayton, who has been hospitalized since his birth a couple of months ago.

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PRAISES

Thank God for MCC Long Beach - always on time and sometimes early with their Tithe checks. They were early in October, and we neglected to put them on the TOP 20 List in October. Apologies! Their Tithe amount for September was \$1000.00. Thanks also to their pastor Rev. Dusty Pruitt and Assistant Pastor, Rev. Bjorn Marcusses!

The following churches let us know that they were joining with Rev. Jim Norwood and Agape MCC, Ft. Worth TX, in a Thanksgiving Vigil and Fast on behalf of the AIDS crisis. Below are a few reports:

"God's message to you is certainly a powerful one, and I will certainly keep the cure for AIDS in my prayer."

Rev. Chuck Larsen, MCC Resurrection
Houston, TX

"May each of our prayers be offered believing in the healing power and love of God."

Rev. Larry Whitesell, Diabolo Valley MCC

"God is for us, and now is the time!"

Rev. William Coulter, MCC Tampa

"I am planning to engage in this Fast personally and I am encouraging others to do so."

Rev. Roy Birchard

"...the entire Long Beach congregation will be called upon...to join the worldwide UFMCC during this period of Fasting and Prayer."

Dr. E. D. Lister, MCC Long Beach

"We too truly believe, that is we are faithful and claim the healing power of God, that we will see a cure for AIDS."

Rev. Phil Eberle, Rev. Richard Matera,
Trinity MCC, New York

"We shall indeed join with you in Spirit and pray our healing Lord Jesus eliminate this disease, either by direct intervention or by inspiration of the medical

authorities to discover a cure..."

Rev. Stan Harris, MCC Charleston, SC

"If you remain in me, and my word in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it!"

Rev. Ron Bergeron, Eastern Canadian District,
MCC Ottawa

"Our prayers will not only be for AIDS, but for peace, justice, food and health!"

Rev. Jennie Boyd Bull, MCC Baltimore

"To GOD be the glory"

Rev. Frank Scott, MCC Ventura

MCC Spokane has just voted unanimously to purchase a former Episcopal Church!

King of Peace MCC, in St. Petersburg, FL is purchasing a former Elks Club for about \$175,000.

Rev. Elder Jean White reports that we have received an inquiry for materials and affiliation from a group in Elba, Greece!

MCC Jacksonville was the victim of another fire, early in the morning of December 16th, 1984. This is their second fire (by arson) within one year. This time, according to pastor Mike Piazza, the damage was a lot less, because they had installed fire retardant carpeting and the fire was started in the social hall, not the sanctuary. No structural damage occurred. The congregation (which is growing, and now known as St. Luke's MCC), pitched in and re-painted the inside of the building that day! Mike says he thinks the church will "look like new" by Christmas.

For an excellent Lenten Booklet for 1985, write for "Liberation and Unity" A GUIDE FOR MEDITATION AND ACTION, sponsored by the Consultation of on Church Union, the AME, AME Zion and CME Churches. They are available from The Consultation on Church Union, 228 Alexander St. Princeton, New Jersey 08540.



MCC San Diego continues to experience harassment and verbal abuse each Sunday morning from a group of fundamentalist Christians, who are terrorizing other "liberally" identified organizations in the city. The pastor (Rev. David Fairell) and congregation has asked for our special prayers as they deal with the stress of these attacks.

REMINDER: Monthly statistical (Church) Reports are to be sent to the Fellowship Offices. If you print on the face of the envelope "MONTHLY REPORT", this would be helpful for immediate processing. THESE FORMS ARE PRINTED IN TRIPLICATE ONLY NOW, THE FELLOWSHIP GETS ONLY ONE COPY, YOUR DISTRICT GETS ONE, AND ONE IS FOR YOUR RECORDS.

CHURCH MANAGEMENT, INC. P.O. Box 1625, Austin Texas 78767, has two excellent books available, TAX PLANNING FOR CLERGY (\$2.95) and MAKING IT ON A PASTOR'S SALARY (\$3.95).

PLEASE PUBLISH THIS NEWS RELEASE FROM THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE. IT IS URGENT THAT ALL CUBANS WHO CAME TO THE U.S. DURING THE 1980 MARIEL BOATLIFT HAVE THIS INFORMATION:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is putting into effect a program to grant permanent resident status to eligible Cubans who entered the U.S. during the 1980 Mariel boatlift. Alan C. Nelson, INS Commissioner, announced today. Permanent resident status for the Cubans is authorized under legislation known as the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966. The legislation applies only to Cuban nationals and their spouses and children and does not benefit individuals from any other country.

In the first step of the program, which will be conducted during December, 1984, INS will ask all Cubans who entered the U.S. during the April 15 to October 10, 1980 boatlift and who are not yet U.S. permanent residents or citizens to register with the Service through local participating voluntary agencies. The registration period will begin on December 3, 1984 and continue to December 31, 1984. Those who register during that time period will be the first scheduled for adjustment interviews. There will be no preference given to those who register early in December over those who register later in the month. (This note was only received December 20th, registrations will continue.)

In the second step, which will begin after April 1, 1985, INS will conduct interviews and issue decisions regarding resident status. Permanent resident status confers most of the privileges of U.S. citizenship and is required before citizenship can be attained.

The registration will provide INS with the current ad-

dress of those expected to apply for resident status so that they may be contacted for interviews. The Service will use the information obtained from this registration to update computer files, to estimate the workload and to transfer Service records to appropriate offices. There will be no penalties for those who fail to register. However, those who do not will be interviewed for resident status after those who do register.

INS said applicants should not contact its offices. Beginning in March 1985 the Service will begin contacting persons for interviews.

INS estimates that up to 100,000 Cubans will register. Some of the 125,000 Cubans who came during the boatlift have already obtained resident status through close relatives in the United States. Cubans presently held in Service detention because of their criminal or mental records will not be covered by this program. The government will continue to negotiate with the government of Cuba to press for the repatriation of these persons.

Forms for the December registration will be available about November 30, 1984, from local voluntary agencies who agree to participate with the Service in this program. The following national voluntary organizations have said they will encourage their local affiliates to participate: American Council for Nationalities Service, Church World Service, Cuban-American National Foundation, International Rescue Committee, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, United States Catholic Conference Migration and Refugee Service and World Relief.

Registration forms will not generally be available at INS offices. There is no fee for the submission of the Registration form.

Rev. Joseph Gilbert, MCC Philadelphia reports that the Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities has been authorized to advertise the following:

"Temporary position of about six months. Will coordinate and execute programs of the City Commission on Sexual Minorities. Must be a well-organized self-starter able to deal on a professional level and perform clerical support tasks. Experience working with both Lesbian women and Gay men is essential. May lead to permanent appointment.

"Send detailed resume with cover letter indicating background so that it will be received January 14

at: Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities
Search Committee
Room 143
City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107"

FROM WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION

NEXT MONTH IS WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION SUNDAY -- LOOK FOR MATERIALS SOON!

A letter from Rev. Sylvanus Maduka:

"...we wish to express our interest on the Christian Social Action Epiphany program...

"We do not want Nigeria to be left out on all the activities of the Fellowship, for we are a part...Arrangement in on the way to have a central office in Okigwe--just a standard office with telephone link as to be reached in the daytime. We hope this office will help in the Fellowship's distribution of material here. In 1985, we are hoping to raise money to obtain a piece of land in Okigwe metropolis for the church building and offices and for a community recreation center, ...A small Bible school may also be set up for training of our pastors... My wife is sick, please pray for her...I wrote to Freda Smith about my interest in attending the next General Conference...Keep us in your prayers."

From Rev. Bob Jones of Liverpool, England:

"(Two) months ago, People's express brought me from New York to London...(These) months have been full of excitement and adjustments...The folks here are patient with my Americanisms and will repeat words which I simply can't understand... Liverpool is a great place to be... It is a clean city. Unfortunately the lack of industry means many unemployed, the dock areas are almost deserted. Jobs and job training are directed to the very young. This means one can be over the hill and unemployable in the late 30's and 40's. ...Because the economy is so bad and pay scales so low, even small change is much more important.

"MCC Liverpool is made up of survivors. They have gone the last 18 months without a formal pastor. Everyone has taken turn preaching and conducting workshop. The Committee has squeezed every pence and have been able to stay out of debt. My hope as a pastor is to build on this excellent foundation...I am very happy here. The church loves me and seem ready to start building a major church. I promise to keep you informed. Greater Liverpool is made up of over a million people in many different communities and neighborhoods. As I travel around on the nifty buses...a realization comes to me, this is the City of God, these are God's people. The sophisticated south of the country thinks of Liverpooldilians as simple and a little backwards. But God is always using out-of-the-way people to do great works..."

CALENDAR 1985

We did not get enough orders in for the 1985 calendar to warrant the expense of printing it, however, we are going to print it in installments in Keeping In Touch. Enclosed are the months of January and February for your information!

NCC UPDATE

The National Council of Churches (USA) voted at their November meeting that UFMCC does not have to re-apply for membership, and that our membership remains in file during this period on continuing dialogue. The Council approved an excellent series of yearly consultations with members of the Governing Board and membership for UFMCC on the subjects of Human Sexuality, Biblical Interpretation and Christian Unity--we believe this is another important step in witnessing to what God is doing through UFMCC!

YES! I want to subscribe to JOURNEY!

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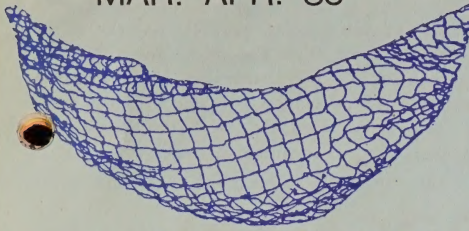
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NETWORK

A monthly newsletter for Elders, District Officers and Fellowship personnel

Elder's Commentary

by Rev. Nancy Wilson

(*This issue is a little later than usual due to the District Coordinators and Elders meeting just previous to our deadline!!).

REPORT ON DISTRICT COORDINATORS AND ELDERS MEETING:

The meeting began February 25, in Los Angeles, with a tour of the Fellowship Offices, lunch with the Elders, time for the D.C.'s with the Director of Administration, Ravi Verma, and time with Rev. Nancy Radclyffe, Senior Chaplain, and administrator of the Fellowship's Pension Plan. The trip concluded in L.A., also, with a tour of Samaritan College, a video tape of Jeff Pulling's Stewardship Program, a video of the last summer's "Orientation to MCC Pastoring" Program, a presentation by Dean Sherre E. [unclear], and one by EXCEL Director, Jane Sandmeier.

In between we went to Palm Springs, and had three days of intense discussion on the G.S.S. proposal, the General Council concept, the future program of the Fellowship, the aids Crisis in 5 countries that we were in touch with at this point, Fellowship finances and budget process, publications, District structures and problems, our World Church Extension ministry and program, and other issues. We also had a special preview showing of "God, Gays and the Gospel: This is our Story" which was met with overwhelming enthusiasm, to a person. We spent a good deal of time strategizing about raising money for distribution.

The experience was certainly a landmark one for all of us. We could feel that history was happening before our eyes. We experienced the General Council concept, and felt mutually affirmed in our roles as Fellowship leaders. There was time to relax in the peaceful Palm Springs environment, and lots of time for informal sharing. We were human beings together, servants of God together, MCCer's together. It seemed to bring out the best in all of us, and had us all looking forward to a spectacular General Conference.

ELDER'S MEETING ANALYSIS:

The Elders met for 5 days following the D.C. and Elders meeting - We made 9 days in a row of meetings. Nevertheless, our meeting was even more productive than usual because of all the input and feedback from the D.C.'s at our meeting in Palm Springs. The following are the highlights of our meetings:

We spent time with Ravi reviewing progress on our administrative goals. The financial accounting continues to improve; work on church services needs to begin this year, and we need to do ahead with the functional analysis of the administrative and executive offices. Job descriptions for the Moderator, Clerk, Executive Secretary, Director of Administration are all in the final process of being critiqued. The functional analysis will help us in their finalization.

We adjusted the budget to provide for raises for the staff, and for equalizing and making more fair the salaries for the Moderator, Clerk, Director of Administration and the Executive Secretary of World Church Extension.

We passed a major new proposal for a Department of Global Outreach, which will require funding a Director at 1/3rd time in September, 1/2 time in January, and full time by July of 1986. This Department will focus on church growth: Will do research, planning, fundraising, will itinerate the churches, raise money for World Church Extension, and work on Fellowship-District partnership for church growth in the next decade. This Department will be raising its own funds, and will contribute funds to an expanded World Church Extension program outreach. We are including this plan in the Elders report to General Conference, and in our budget proposals.

Along with this, we made major plans for World Church Extension in the next 2, 5, and 10 years. Outreach targets will include France, Germany and Spain, Indonesia, Japan and the Phillipines, Central and South America.

Charters were granted to King of Peace MCC in St. Petersburg Florida, and MCC of the Palm Beaches, W. Palm Beach, Florida.

Mission Status was granted to MCC Buffalo, New York, and MCC of Gainesville, Florida.

Additional clerical help was provided for the Clerk of the Board of Elders out of General Conference funds to assist with preparations for General Conference. The Clerk is most grateful.

A UFMCC BUILDING FUND WAS ESTABLISHED. This fund will be used to purchase or build a Fellowship Headquarters, and as a revolving loan fund for all local churches

wanting to borrow monies for property or building purchase.

We approved the design for the brochure authored by Rev. Steve Pieters on aids -- this should be available very soon. Also, FFO worked on an additional brochure that deals with the substantive theological issues surrounding the aids crisis. The brochure will be going through an editing process over the next few weeks.

Mr. George Kennedy was appointed Interim Chair of the Fellowship's By-Laws Committee, following the resignation of Mr. Alan Povey. Thanks to Alan for all his work over the years!

We spent considerable time with Rev. Perry strategizing about raising funds for the distribution of the TV show. Cassettes will be available for sale at General Conference, with a limited edition booklet (in memory of Gregg Cutts). Dinners will be held in major cities to raise funds.

The Board of Elders spent more time working on implementation of the General Conference resolution on including Third World people in our program and committee structure. We decided that the structure of the finance committee did not give us the authority to appoint any additional persons from outside the committee to sit on the Executive Committee. We are urging the persons who applied to run for the positions of representative to the Finance Committee from their Districts. We have to find a way to work with Districts to urge them to elect Third World people to important Fellowship positions. We were pleased the Board of Pensions is requesting appointment of a Third World person as their next member. They have already begun a search for suitable candidates.

The Publications Board will begin meeting before the General Conference -- they have already had at least one publication to review.

We dealt with several requests from the Credentials Committee. By having the Board of Elders meet in a less expensive hotel the week prior to General Conference, we were able to provide lodging for all Credentials personnel (they will use 13 people at their meeting, including alternates, just to be able to keep up with the workload), and meeting space for them. Also, we extend the terms of three Credentials Committee members, Claudia Vierra, Brenda Cisneros-Hunt, and Jeff Pulling, at their request, to provide for continuity, and so as not to interrupt very crucial projects in progress. However, the Elders have not yet changed the policy of appointing people for 4 year terms. Other terms that expire this year will indeed expire. At the same time, the Committee is looking for ways to be able to use former members and alternates in their interviewing process, at least one District this

year will need two interview teams just to see the 60 or so clergy that need to meet with the CRC! The following persons were appointed as alternates to the Committee (present alternates include: Rev. Willie Smith, Rev. LaPaula Turner, Rev. Jose Mojica): Rev. Bob Copestake, Rev. Jamie McAlister, Rev. Tom Jordan and Rev. Dee Lamb.

PROGRAM FOCUS

PROGRAM AND BUDGET CONFAB: PRE CONFERENCE

Several program leaders, notable Rev. Claudia Vierra and Rev. Jennie Boyd Bull, have called for a program leaders meeting about the proposed Fellowship budget prior to General Conference..on June 27th. The Board of Elders will be represented, as well as the Director of Administration, and many of you. This will be an opportunity to discuss the proposed budget, and how to address the Finance Committee with each of our distinct needs while minimizing our competition. See you there!

Rev. Bonnie Daniel turned in her Security Form (which requests next of kin and funeral arrangements for District Coordinators) with the comment "What a drag". Well, they probably are a drag, but a necessary one -- but thanks for the chuckle..Bonnie!

Rev. Frank Scott's mother died recently. Expressions of love and sympathy may be sent c/o MCC Ventura.

Rev. Jo Crisco's mother also recently died, please send your love and sympathy to her c/o MCC Mid-Cities, Arlington, TX.

District Coordinator Adam DeBaugh reported that their District (Mid-Atlantic) has a District-wide aids Task Force that assists District churches. For more information write to R. Adam DeBaugh.

NETWORK IS OUR NEWSLETTER! If you have contributions to "In And Around," ideas for feature articles, concerns. Let us know. Write to NETWORK, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, L.A., Ca. 90027

HAPPY EASTER

ELDERS, AND DISTRICT COORDINATORS MEET FOR FIRST TIME IN
DRY RUN OF G.S.S.' "GENERAL COUNCIL" PROPOSAL
by R. Adam DeBaugh
Mid-Atlantic District Coordinator

In an historic and eventful week in early February, the Board of Elders and District Coordinators met together for the first time ever. The meeting was, in many respects, a dry run of the General Council proposal of the Government, Structures and Systems Commission -- a proposal which received the support of the Elders. In a sense, we can say, "we have seen the future, and it works!"

One of the remarkable things about this meeting was that everyone was there. The only District Coordinator who was unable to make the meeting was the Rev. Gil Lincoln (South Atlantic District) and he was represented ably and well by Assistant District Coordinator the Rev. Lynn Guerra. All other District Coordinators were there, including the Reverends Ernest Lacasse and Ron Bergeron from Canadian Districts, the Rev. Jim Dykes from the Australian District, the Rev. Bob Arthur from our newest District, the North Sea District (Great Britain, Denmark and France), and the Rev. Jose Mojica from the Hispanic Americas Ministry - World Church Extension area.

All seven Elders were present for the meeting as well, which preceded the regularly scheduled Elder's meeting in Los Angeles.

The week began on Monday, February 4, with tours of the Los Angeles headquarters and meetings with the staff. Ravi Verma, Director of Administration, and the Rev. Nancy Radclyffe, chaplain, met with the District Coordinators at length. We lunched all together at a nearby restaurant and had a chance to share more informally with staff people from headquarters and from Samaritan Educational Center.

Then we piled in a rented van and other cars for the drive out of smoggy L.A. to the clean and beautiful desert and our hotel in Palm Springs.

The Fellowship will be astonished to learn of another of our Founder/Moderator's many talents which was revealed to us on this trip: Troy is an excellent bus driver!

General Conference Coordinator Jim Voltz did the planning for the meeting and obtained excellent accommodations for us at very reasonable rates and wonderful food at less than \$20 a day each person! Jim's organizing ability for General Conference was certainly put to the test in preparing for a meeting of the Elders and District Coordinators and he passed that test with flying colors!

We all shared meals together, met each day to discuss a wide range of issues confronting our Fellowship, and had free time together to share and get to know one another. It was a week characterized by building and growing trust between us all, a trust that has not always been evident. The commitment, sharing, vulnerability, dreams, frustrations, pains and fears and joys that we showed each other did much to bring us together as a working and

loving body of Christians. This was the leadership of our Fellowship working together. We found that we can work together and that we all have the same goals and many of the same dreams for our Fellowship.

We saw the Fellowship television show together, "God, Gays and the Gospel: This is our Story," and we laughed and wept at it, overjoyed at its beauty and power. Ravi Verma led us through an afternoon of discussion and learning about leadership and organizational styles. We spent an afternoon dreaming together, and what dreams we have for this Fellowship of ours! Michael Mank dreams of an entire city devoted to UFMCC services and program agencies; health care facilities, retirement centers, retreat centers, better salaries, evangelism in new and exciting ways, and my special dream, a Fellowship publishing house! These were just some of the dreams we lifted up. Imagine us all being linked electronically by computer. Freda Smith and David Pelletier say we can do it now!

We discussed our pain and fear over aids and shared some of the things going on in our Districts. We brainstormed about how best to utilize the television show, all of us suddenly great partisans of the TV show after having seen it. We talked some about our frustrations with our work, and a lot about the joys. We realized that despite any differences we may have, we are all committed to the UFMCC and committed to seeing it work!

While the General Council, if it passes General Conference, will need to have some adjustments in our meeting style with a larger group than the Elders are used to working with, we saw that it can work and that it can work well.

The Elders took a major step in calling this historic meeting, a step that can only result in our better ability to do the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our Universal Fellowship.

in
and
around

Wendy Taylor, and MCC student at PSR in the San Francisco area, and her lover, Ellen, joined with many women in a trip to Nicaragua for the "Witness for Peace International Women's Day Delegation to Nicaragua". Please keep them in your prayers. There will be a workshop held at the General Conference concerning Nicaragua and Central American issues -- several MCC people have made journeys there in the past two years, and have stories to share.

DIRECTIONS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

My trip to India was a "homecoming" in more ways than one. Firstly, it meant spending precious time with my family - meeting my 3 year old nephew for the first time. The healing process continues with them and I felt like I "belonged" again! Secondly, through a few gay friends (some of whom I had met while in India on my last trip and some who had visited me here). I met literally hundreds of gay men in Bombay, Poona, Delhi...etc. I had come out as a gay man in U.S.A. and had had very few opportunities to meet other Indian gay men - so it was a powerful experience for me! Thirdly, I met with a large number of Indian Christians with whom I was able to talk about UFMCC and our vision for humanity. Doors seem to be opening for literature on Sexuality and Christianity to be placed in several counseling centers and Indian Seminaries. At the same time, elections were being held in India and I was part of an enormous wave of confidence that led to Rajiv Gandhi's election as Prime Minister. I shared with my people in the hope and excitement of this new era in India's future! I also grieved at the numbing tragedy in Bhopal and raged against all the forces that make such disasters possible!

SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

(1) attending the first ever "all gay" New Years Party openly held in one of the suburban hotels in Bombay. Over 150 gay men openly attended this party which included dancing, food, drinks... This was the birth of the organized gay movement in India! It was the talk of the gay community and people from many other cities want to do the same!

(2) on New Years Eve spending time at the "Bandstand" in the heart of Bombay, a gay cruising area, traditionally gay people have gathered there on New Years Eve to welcome the New Year. This year there was construction going on and several policemen were refusing to let anyone in. Not to be stopped, several of us led the procession of hundreds of us into the park while the police watched. On the same night, as police harassed one of the men in drag, several of us surrounded them and forced the police to leave him alone.

(3) giving my niece a copy of "Thriller" album to have her tell me - "Oh, that's several months old - why didn't you get something by "Prince!"

(4) getting letters from several people at the National Council of Churches supporting me in my journey and sending me names of people to contact! One such contact, a professor in one of the local colleges and part of the Christian Counselors Association in India had contacted my home even before I reached India. I met him and within 15 minutes he was telling me about his own

struggles around his sexuality! We met several times and he has been very instrumental in opening many doors.

I also traveled different cities and met some very dynamic leaders in the Indian Christian movement, (Note: only 2% of India's population is Christian - most Hindus and Muslims).

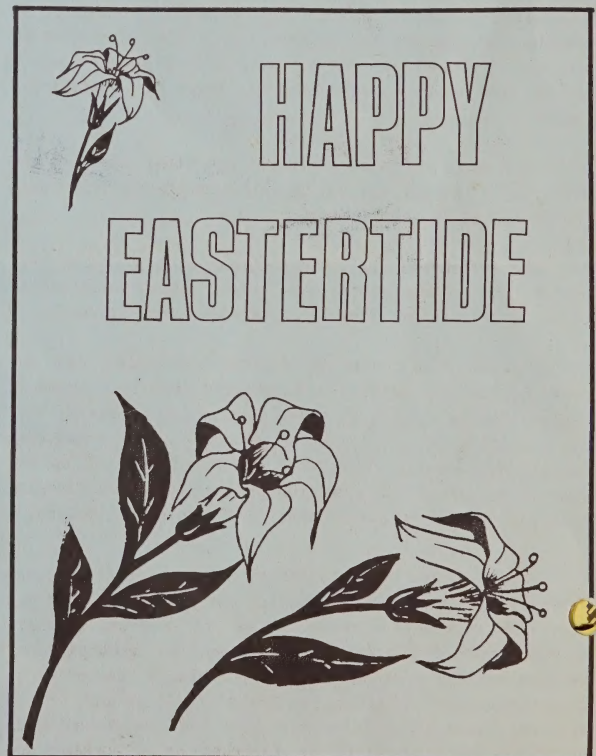
5) getting telephone calls and letters from many of you here. Thanks for your love and support.

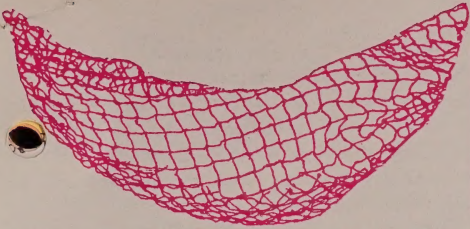
There are many, many more stories and experiences about my trip - overall it was re-connecting, with pride and joy, to my heritage, my past and celebrating my part in it.

The gay movement is just starting and an informal networks exist in many places, the media is beginning to write about us. The women's movement is blooming and promises to radically alter everyone!

At such a time and place, what is the role of the church in general and UFMCC in particular? These question needs to be asked about our role and work in all Third World Countries and also in Communist Countries. What should we do? Who should do it? How do we relate to the local people, culture, religion, etc.? We may not have the answers yet, but it is time to start asking the questions.

The trip was too short but has given me a new center, a new way of approaching and doing my ministry. I hope to be able to share more with all of you soon.





NETWORK

A monthly newsletter for Elders, District Officers and Fellowship personnel

Elder's Commentary

by Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson

Many of you have already commented to me about Troy's recent Pastoral Letter to the churches and Clergy in our denomination. What a joy it was to read! I think that's true for a lot of reasons - it was good to hear such positive, energetic things after the holiday blahs, and, it was good specifically to hear that from Troy. I know it may be getting a little personal to say this (I think we can risk that in Network!), but it was good to hear it from Troy because it is a sign of his personal healing from the devastating fact of Gregg's death. I've seen Troy cry over these last two years only too infrequently, I guess. He's tried hard to be brave and cheerful in the face of it all, but I could actually see the slow, gradual healing take place -- and not as fast as he wanted it to be. But God works in God's time, and it is good to feel, see, and read the "old" fire from Troy D. Perry. . .

What a year this is going to be - I can feel it in my bones! It's already been a glorious year for me personally. Last week I was given the honor of being the 1st recipient of the Lazarus Award, given by the Lazarus Project (a Presbyterian gay/lesbian ministry) to someone who has worked to reconcile the gay/lesbian community and the religious community, or to someone who has contributed to the spirituality of the gay/lesbian community. I had weeks of anxiety before the dinner. My parents decided to come all the way from New York. I got wonderful letters from National Council people, and MCC people. Judy Dahl surprised me and came back early from Clergy Conference to be there. Grace upon grace. An embarrassment of riches. Jeri Ann said some beautiful things, as did the director of the Southern California Ecumenical Council. My parents cried, so did I. Even Paula got more than a little misty! I felt so proud to be who I was, and to be a part of all of you. I felt lifted up and full of joy.

My award itself is very unusual - the symbol of Lazarus' resurrection, a cross on a rising sun, with my name on the back - all done on scrimshaw, on antique ivory. Something I can wear to remind myself of who I am, who we are together, as a people. A Lazarus coming forth.

To be truthful, I felt uneasy, embarrassed, overwhelmed. And then, I really didn't want it to end! I hated putting my parents on the plane. Having nearly lost them, when I am with them now it is always hard to say good-bye. What if I never see them again? I still talk at them a mile a minute - for all the lost years they

could not bear to be part of my life -- and I still grieve over what we have permanently lost. But I also thank God that we have all lived for the time of the awards, and reconciliation, and new beginnings.

And all my MCC friends were so cute - they got all dressed up to honor me at the Hyatt on Sunset, and to meet my folks! People I hadn't ever seen in suits and ties, all clean and sparkling. . .

All that affirmation has made me feel almost dizzy, so full to overflow. I felt it the week before in Orlando, as we met with GSS, CCCC, Samaritan, FFO and the Clergy at Clergy Conference. In those meetings we affirmed each other's personal worth, and the worth and goodness of all that we do together. I was so deeply impressed with the work GSS is doing. To go over their document word by word with them, to hear the rationale's, to feel the years of struggle and listening, and re-struggling . . . FFO dropped everything they were doing, and worked on a paper for aids that the Elders requested they address. The quality and depth of honesty, caring and commitment in that work makes me proud. We had a delightful afternoon with CCCC folks, who after years of being together, with too much to do, and not enough time, money or often, support, to do it with, are finally starting to do some programming work, too! Workshop, seminars, brochures, involvement in student clergy training and preparation, continual care of clergy in their charge. For all the "crap" they endure, you could still feel the love they have for their important work. And the Samaritan folks are talking about 1992, and buying a building, setting the world on fire . . . And Nancy Radclyffe, though absent because of a flu, was ever present in the lives of Clergy women and men who have felt the enormous

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RESOURCES

For information, detailed in North American cities, on the efforts of the Klan or neo-Nazi groups, Klanwatch Intelligence Report, published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, 1001 South Hull St., Montgomery, Alabama 36101, is an excellent source.

For an excellent book on the nature of ministry, clergy and lay, look for The Walk on Water Syndrome, by Edward Bratcher, published by Eerdmans. It is an excellent anecdote to the "I think I'm gonna burn out" blues.

in and around

Ravi Verma has returned from his trip home to India, and will be sharing with us about that in the next issue of Network.

Elders Eastman, Smith and Wilson attended the Clergy Conference on behalf of the Board of Elders, and also met in pre-conference meetings with GSS, CCCC, FFO and the Samaritan Division Heads. All of these important UFMCC program arms had successful meetings. Watch for the final GSS Proposal, the FFO brochure on aids, and some exciting CCCC workshops at General Conference, all coming out of these meetings.

Rev. Bonnie Daniel reports that Rev. Phil Boelter has moved to Fargo, North Dakota to pastor our church there (which he founded with the support of the Minneapolis Church).

Rev. Ron Bergeron reports that our new group in Montreal is really moving along - they now have the By-Laws in French!

The Fellowship By-Laws are now translated and printed in Spanish, and are available upon request from Fellowship Headquarters. We particularly want to thank Rev. Jose Mojica, Rev. Betty Pedersen, and Wendy Taylor for all their efforts in getting this accomplished!

Rev. Jim Glyer and Mr. Al Williams could use our prayers - Al is struggling with cancer. They could use lots of encouragement.

Rev. Delores Berry can also use our support - she and her mother and her lover Judy are moving back to Baltimore shortly - Keep them in your prayers.

Rev. Mojica reports that a group in Guadalajara, Mexico is starting to hold MCC worship services Feb. 16th!

Jane Sandmeier (MCC Portland) is the new Director of the Excel Movement, and she will be writing an article for us soon in an upcoming Network.

Our love and prayers are extended to Rev. Ron Bergeron, District Coordinator of Eastern Canada - Ron's father died in Portland in early February, after a long illness.

Our love also extended to Rev. Ro Halford (member of the Fellowship Office staff) whose father died in late January.

PROGRAM FOCUS

Fellowship Finance Committee and Up-Coming Budget Preparations

The Fellowship Finance Committee (FFC) will be meeting at General Conference both for hearings and for final adjustments to the recommended budget to be submitted to General Conference. This is the primary function

of the FFC. The Board of Elders appoints, from FFC, a Fellowship Finance Executive Committee (FFEC). This much smaller committee serves as an advisor to the Fellowship Treasurer and makes policy recommendations on financial matters to the Board of Elders as well as recommendations on budget adjustments between General Conferences as changing circumstances may require.

The FFEC has met by conference call and in person since Toronto. During February it will meet again by conference call to discuss possible changes in the April '85 to March, '86 budget, and make recommendations to the Board of Elders. The principal work of FFEC is just beginning. All Fellowship related groups which anticipate receiving funding through the Fellowship budget should be in the process of preparing requests for the Jan '86 through Dec. 31, 1987 fiscal years. (Note: The fiscal year changes as of 1986 to be Jan 1, 1986 - Dec. 31, 1986; Jan. 1, 1987 - Dec. 31, 1987; a special form will be sent to all program units to send to the Finance Committee). These requests are due by March 15 to the Chair of the FFEC - T.R. Reveley, 539 W. 17th, Houston, TX 77008. Copies of the requests will be forwarded to the Fellowship Treasurer and the other members of the FFEC. The Committee will meet with the Treasurer and prepare revenue estimates for comparison with the consolidated requests of all UFMCC groups. This is the point at which the work begins. The requests must be adjusted to fit within the anticipated revenues. It is expected that the FFEC will consider at least these factors in making adjustments: relationship of the group's expressed purpose to the purposes of UFMCC, effectiveness and efficiency of the group in the past in reaching stated purposes, practicality of plans for reaching goals not yet reached, and overall revenue limitations. Thus the committee is asking for a statement of goals and purposes for each group and evaluation of past performance and future plans. Copies of periodic reports to the Board of Elders for the last two budget years and/or FFEC members' familiarity with on-going programs may be sufficient guidance in making budget requests adjustments.

The recommended budget from FFEC will be distributed with Conference materials and will be sent to as many members of FFC as we can identify. Time for hearings on the proposed budget will again be provided at Conference and the FFC will present its proposed budget to Conference for voting. FFEC hopes to be able to provide proposed budgets based on By-Laws changes recommended by GSS if those changes are distributed in time, and if they have a budgetary impact.

PROGRAM FOCUS II "Samaritan College on the Move" by Rev. Sherre Boothman

So much is happening at the College! When I asked to write an article for Network on what is happening, I must admit I was surprised at how much has actually happened in the last three months.

Orientation to MCC Pastoring 1985 is set. You
continued on page 3

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PROGRAM FOCUS

probably have already received the brochure. Please do not hesitate to ask for additional copies if you need them.

The following is a brief description of the new programs that have been developed since September 1984:

1. Seminar Program: All courses are made available for qualified faculty to teach locally except for those courses offered in the Orientation to MCC Pastoring Program. Those courses which are required all carry minimum objectives, and many specify texts.
2. District Samaritan Partnership: We will purpose to the District Coordinators in February 1985 an administrative partnership between the districts and Samaritan College. If the districts will call their student clergy together for regular weekend sessions (once a month), Samaritan College will provide faculty. Financially it will require a minimum number of students, probably 5, to make most weekend seminars feasible. The district will ask the hosting local church to provide classroom facilities, housing and food. Samaritan College will provide the faculty with transportation and a stipend from the tuition and registration fees, and the necessary administrative support to faculty and students. With 1 credit hour earned for each weekend gathering, all required courses at Samaritan College, not available in correspondence or in the Orientation Program, can be done each year at a district level.
3. Extension Center Policy: In January, 1985 the Management Team is expected to approve the Extension Center Policy for Samaritan College. An Extension Center is literally an Extension of Samaritan College in a district or WCE area outside the USA. It will operate at the direction of an Assistant Dean who will be supervised directly by the Dean of Samaritan College. At the time an Extension Center is approved for opening, its service area will be delineated. The Center may offer all Samaritan College programs to its service area including the Seminar Program and all the courses covered in the Orientation to MCC Pastoring Program. It may not offer any programs outside its service area without the permission of the Dean. We expect to open Extension Centers in Birmingham, England and Sydney, Australia in 1985. Any changes in any aspect of the College programs, including minimum course objectives for required courses, requires the approval of the Dean of Samaritan College.

If you are interested in more information on any of these please contact me. If you have an idea for furthering Christian Education in MCC please share them with us. The above programs are the results of several creative people sharing their dreams with us. God does work miracles! Share even if the dream seems impossible now.

"ON WHOSE SHOULDERS"

by Rev. Bonnie Daniel

Mid-Central District Coordinator

It was a warm Wednesday afternoon in late November of 1971. I was living alone in the Wilshire District of Los Angeles. I was three months pregnant, separated from my husband, depressed, lonely, and confused about my sexuality. I remember as if it were yesterday how I aimlessly stared into space as if in a trance. I drifted back in time to my baptism into the Body of Christ. I remember the Rev. Chuck Smith (Founder of Calvary Chapel and noted author) telling me that God had a special work for me and that God was changing my life. What garbage I thought to myself, not only wasn't I special I wasn't even whole. Here I was with no one to talk to, no church where I could comfortably worship in, no friends to share my confidence with. I had reached one of the lowest points of my life. God had let me down and even worse - JESUS WAS A FARCE. As I sat there in loneliness I recalled hearing or reading about a church just a short mile from Wilshire and Alvarado Blvd. A church on Union somewhere between 20 and 25th st. I didn't even remember it's name, but it was Wednesday night and most churches had a mid-week service. I got there just in time for the message. The young man who preached me home that night was a guest speaker, a Baptist, a fellow named Robert Sirico. The church had a deacon there that evening as well, a rather robust gentleman named Bill Thorne. Bill invited me back on Sunday and the rest is history. My coming to M.C.C. is not that unusual. Most of us were lost souls with broken lives but for me it was a miracle and I will never forget those early days. My life as a lay person was short lived. The Fellowship needed clergy, it was that simple. My call to the professional ministry was as big a surprise to me as anyone else. I spent the next six years or so not taking my calling very seriously. Because I tried so desperately to break away from my ministry during those early years it has come to mean all the more to me today. God how I love our Fellowship! It's because of that love that I am compelled to write this article.

Over the years I have witnessed us grow not only in numbers but in spiritual maturity as well. We stepped out on faith and became International. We dealt with (and continue to deal with) the issues of language, racism, sexism, and Christian Social Action. We saw friends and fellow clergyfolks leave us for supposedly greener pastures. Our growth has been in some respects painful. God has separated the wheat from the chaff. Over the years there has been one burning issue after another on the

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floor of General Conference, one major criticism after another of our Board of Elders, of the structure of our government, of the morality of our clergy, and on and on. We have confronted the issues, dealt with the conflict and overcome the criticism. WE HAVE SURVIVED!!! There is however, one particular problem that has been in the hearts and on the lips of our people for as long as I have been a member of our Fellowship. A problem we just glaze over during General Conference. A problem that like a cancerous tumor is growing out of control. The problem I am addressing is that of our Fellowship finances. I have listened to all the arguments and heard all the accusations about the Elders poor judgment in borrowing money from our churches. I have listened to the rhetoric about the gross mis-management of finances and how given the opportunity some of our Pastors could "clean-up" the Fellowship offices. I have seen us devour one competent treasurer after another only to find the tumor still growing out of control. It's time for us to discover ON WHOSE SHOULDERS the financial stability of our Fellowship really lies.

Being a District Coordinator puts one in a precarious situation. I am elected by people that I am accountable to. They pay my salary, my future in this district depends on their vote, and I have certain obligations to them. I hear their grievances, I nurture them, I pray with them, and for them, and I am in part responsible for their growth. Part of that growth process depends on how I handle conflict and how I filter through complaints. Yes, my district complains about the Fellowship's financial situation, but the complaints have come less frequently of late. You see, I firmly believe that the burden of responsibility lies on the shoulders of our church bodies. More specifically on the shoulders of our Pastors and Worship Coordinators. Nothing grates on my nerves more than to hear a Pastor preach and teach tithing and good stewardship and then turn around and accept a pay check or instruct a treasurer to make a mortgage payment before sending in their tithe check. How inconsistent with God's gospel message! How hypocritical to preach and teach one thing while doing the complete opposite. The people who are hurt the most by this practice are the faithful members who give 10% of all their income to churches who abuse designated funds and think nothing of sending their tithe check weeks and even months in arrears. How can our churches prosper and grow when we have so many people in leadership roles who don't know the first thing about prosperity giving outside their own self interests?

We, as District Coordinators represent the Board of Elders. We are middle management with a great deal of responsibility. Along with that responsibility is the power and authority to build bridges between our Elders and the grass roots ministry of our Fellowship. I challenge our District Coordinators to teach the churches in their care the prompt payment of their Fellowship tithes, and to tithe on all their income. We ask our congregations to tithe on their entire income yet we encourage churches to have "tithe shelters" which we call designated funds. We tell our congregations that it is in the fullness of their giving that they are blessed. Why don't

we see the wisdom of teaching our leadership those same principles in regard to Fellowship support? The reason why our Fellowship is always short of funds is simply due to the fact that 80-90% of our churches are consistently late in their giving. If a major cooperation or even a small business had such a high percentage of late payments on their accounts receivable I can assure you they wouldn't be in business long.

As we look towards our future we need to address the issue of our designated funds. We also need to discuss the possibility of attaching late charges to all tithe payments that are 30 days or more in arrears. I know this will take a By-Law change, but it's time we treated the disease not the symptoms. Yes, there is gross incompetence regarding our Fellowship finances but the incompetence is not in the spending but in the manner by which our churches disburse their income. We as District Coordinators have a responsibility to both our districts and our Fellowship. There is no conflict in building bridges but only in tearing them down. We will not compromise our districts if we stand firm and support the work of our elected Elders. We elect them and ask them to perform in a manner befitting the office. They deserve our honesty, our prayers and our respect. What they don't deserve is the "bad press" and the blame for inadequate cash flow, which they have no control over. Let's work together and educate our leadership. It's time they knew the truth about their responsibility to our Fellowship, our districts, and our congregations!!!

continued from page 1 **ELDER'S COMMENTARY**
impact of her consistent caring, advocacy and availability.

So much to be thankful for.

And what's ahead for us as we near General Conference? I believe the greatest potential for growth -- in terms of people, resources, program and ministry -- that we have ever know! The conditions necessary for that growth I believe, are the following:

- A. A positive, enduring faith in the God who called us out to do this wonderful work; and a corresponding affirming faith in each others gifts -- that they are sufficient for the task!
- B. Structures that enable, and do not impede growth -- on a Fellowship, District and Local church level. Structures that balance local freedom and options with Fellowship cohesiveness; democratic ideals with efficient mechanisms for decision - making; pastoral leadership, courage and compassion with administrative competency and effectiveness.
- C. A massive re-dedication to our vision and mission -- as a prelude, perhaps, to our own Great Awakening on this eve of the 21st Century.

If we can do these things (how can we not do them?) I believe that God will be pouring out blessings, power and strength for us to fulfill our calling. God be with you all.

keeping in touch

News and Notes from the
Fellowship Offices
5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 304
Los Angeles, CA 90029-9990
(213) 464-5100

FEBRUARY 1985

DECEMBER 1984

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by January 15, 1985
(Per Capita)

Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA	\$ 16.82
MCC Bakersfield, CA	16.51
MCC of Greater Rochester, NY	16.35
MCC Rockville, MD	15.68
Trinity MCC, New York, NY	15.43
Calvary MCC, Redwood City, CA	14.60
MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, CA	14.51
MCC Harrisburg, PA	14.47
MCC Washington, DC	14.22
MCC San Jose, CA	14.10
Christ the Liberator MCC, Princeton, NJ	13.30
Redeemer MCC of Flint, MI	13.21
Divine Redeemer MCC, Glendale, CA	12.90
Johnson County MCC, Olathe, KS	12.07
MCC Lancaster, PA	11.99
MCC Providence, RI	11.76
Diablo Valley MCC, Concord, CA	11.29
MCC Long Beach, CA	10.55
The Church of New Hope MCC, Waterloo, IA	10.20
MCC Lansing, MI	10.19

DECEMBER 1984

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by January 15, 1985
(In Amount Given)

MCC of the Resurrection, TX	\$ 2,650.31
MCC Dallas, TX	2,522.52
MCC In The Valley, North Hollywood, CA	1,700.18
MCC Long Beach, CA	1,166.18
Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA	1,025.90
MCC New York, NY	909.75
MCC Los Angeles, CA	888.15
MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO	755.95
MCC Washington, DC	719.75
MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO	689.62
MCC San Jose, CA	641.44
Christ the King MCC, Oklahoma City, OK	569.32
Joy MCC, Orlando, FL	506.39
St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL	486.49
MCC San Antonio, TX	483.82
MCC Detroit, MI	482.87
MCC Albuquerque, NM	436.26
All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN	430.59
Casa de Cristo MCC, Phoenix, AZ	419.33
MCC Mid-Cities, Arlington, TX	414.04

PRAISES

Rev. Claudia Vierra has been elected Pastor of MCC of the Redwoods, in Marin County, California. Congratulations Claudia and MCC of the Redwoods!

Rev. Stan Harris has been elected Pastor of Divine Redeemer MCC in Glendale, California. Congratulations Stan and MCC in Glendale.

Rev. Gloria Root has relocated to MCC Albuquerque to be with her spouse Rev. Judy Davenport.

Ravi Verma (UFMCC Director of Administration), has returned to us after a very eventful and productive visit home to India.

Rev. Elder Perry and Mr. Frank Zerilli are attending the first District Conference of a united Australian District, and visiting our church in Sydney.

For very productive G.S.S., F.F.O., C.C.C.C. meetings and a Spirit filled Clergy Conference.

For Jim Voltz who is doing a marvelous job putting together our General Conference in Sacramento, and for all those who are working so diligently in cooperation with Jim. THANKS!!!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The District Coordinators and Elders meeting will be held in Los Angeles, and Palm Springs, CA., February 25-28, 1985.

The Elders will hold our next meeting March 1-5, 1985 in Los Angeles, CA.

For an excellent Lenten Meditation booklet, called "Liberation and Unity", write to The Consultation on Church Union, 228 Alexander St., Princeton, New Jersey 08540.



MCC San Diego has continued to be the recipients of harassment from a right wing group that is also threatening birth control clinics, etc., in San Diego. They covet our prayer of love and support. Our church in San Diego is alive and well, and prospering under the able leadership of Pastor David Farrell and new Assistant Pastor, Rev. Sheila Rawls. God bless you, MCC San Diego!

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry has recently sent out an important pastoral letter to all UFMCC churches and clergy. Please share this important message with your entire congregation.

TV UPDATE

We are in the process of hiring a distributing company that will purchase airtime in 15 major North American markets for UFMCC's "God, Gays And The Gospel: This Is Our Story." We are also continuing our negotiation with PBS and group W (Cable TV) to air our show.

W.C.E.

HOW CAN I HELP

WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION?

WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION SUNDAY

February 10, 1985

UFMCC continues to grow around the world and the Good News of God's love is being heard by many people, especially gay and lesbian people; often times for the first time. All UFMCC churches will be celebrating this ministry.

Please take a love offering to be a part of this exciting program. You may designate your offering or portion of your offering into the following categories, and send it in the enclosed Business Reply Envelope.

My Offering is in the amount of \$_____, and is designated for:

_____ The World Church Extension Office in London

_____ Outreach in Western Europe and New Zealand

_____ The Mexico City Church's Building Fund

_____ Hispanic Americas Ministry

_____ Translation of Materials

_____ Nigerian Emergency Relief

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ATTENTION - ATTENTION

All district representatives to the Fellowship Finance Committee--both clergy and lay--please send your address to the chair of the Finance Committee,

Mr. Tom Reveley

539 W. 17th Street

Houston, TX 77008

WORLD CHURCH EXTENSION

from Rev. C. Jane Carl

MCC Pomona, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The concept of World Church Extension is not a new one. Since the days of the early church it has always been a "stepping out" on faith.

Last January, Rev. Bob Arthur "stepped out" on faith and answered a call to the World Church Extension Ministry in Birmingham, England.

Because of English Law, Bob is not able to work outside of the church. This means that the church must support his ministry. Because of the better than 70% unemployed in Birmingham, the local church is just beginning to be able to meet the cost of rent on their church. They have not yet been able to offer the pastor a salary.

Bob has accomplished much in the past year. To name but a few of the successes:

1. Doubled the number of souls in the congregation from 16 to 30.
2. Established a Bible Study/Rap group.
3. Preached, when asked, outside of Birmingham.
4. Assisted in the 1st Excel within the UK.
5. Offered Student Clergy Training.
6. Appeared on BBC.
7. Appeared on closed circuit radio in one of the hospitals.
8. Spoke in colleges.
9. Was elected District Coordinator

Bob will be continuing his labor for souls in Birmingham, but to do so he needs our support financially.

Your congregation might consider the following guidelines for a monthly pledge for one year. If your congregation is:

15 or less	\$ 5.00
16 to 35	25.00
36 to 50	50.00
51 to 75	75.00
76 to 125	125.00
LARGER	LARGER

This will be a gift to God's ministry and God will supply blessings you've not dared to dream of

Keeping in Touch

5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 304, Los Angeles, CA 90020-9990 (213) 464-5100

SEPTEMBER

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by Sep. 15th 1984
(In Amount Given)

MCC Dallas - TX	\$1799.68
MCC of the Resurrection - Houston, TX	1434.06
Church of the Holy Spirit MCC - Ft. Ldl., FL	917.17
MCC Long Beach - CA	897.44
MCC in the Valley - N. Hollywood, CA	820.31
MCC Seattle - WA	561.96
Agape MCC of Ft. Worth - TX	540.24
MCC of Greater St. Louis - MO	511.59
MCC Los Angeles - CA	496.53
MCC Portland - OR	454.63
MCC New York - NY	436.89
Casa de Cristo MCC - Phoenix, AZ	395.21
Christ Chapel MCC - Santa Ana, CA	391.05
MCC San Jose - CA	385.71
MCC Washington - DC	384.97
Joy MCC - Orlando, FL	337.29
MCC Albuquerque - NM	317.64
MCC San Antonio - TX	301.86
MCC of the Pomona Valley - Ontario, CA	295.56
River City MCC - Sacramento, CA	285.79

SEPTEMBER

TOP 20 TITHES

Received by Sept. 15th 1984
(Per Capita)

MCC of the Blessed Redeemer - Atlanta, GA	\$27.11
MCC Ocean of Life - CA	27.05
Christ Chapel MCC - Santa Ana, CA	21.13
MCC of the Vineyard - Fresno, CA	18.26
Pikes Peak MCC - Colorado Springs, CA	16.82
MCC Providence - RI	16.75
Agape MCC of Ft. Worth - TX	16.42
Calvary MCC - Redwood City, CA	16.35
MCC of the Desert - Cathedral, CA	14.40
MCC of Greater St. Louis - MO	14.21
MCC Mid-Cities - Arlington, TX	14.20
Diablo Valley MCC - Concord, CA	13.94
MCC Portland - OR	13.77
MCC of Acadiana - Lafayette, LA	13.77
MCC San Jose - CA	13.72
MCC of Dallas - TX	12.80
MCC of Birmingham - AL	12.79
De Colores MCC - Los Angeles, CA	12.69
Church of the Holy Spirit MCC - Ft. Ldl., FL	12.46
MCC Albuquerque - NM	12.12

*** PRAISES ***

"GOD, GAYS AND THE GOSPEL: THIS IS OUR STORY," is completed and is in post-production -- all UFMCC churches should be receiving a special press release about this. The final, post-production costs are less than \$10,000. An update on the finances and the distribution process will also be forthcoming. Praise God! Keep the whole Fellowship in your prayers as we begin preparing for the impact of this exciting TV documentary about the birth, growth and ministry of MCC!

The National Council of Churches has formed a special committee to work with people from UFMCC to create a process and program of ongoing dialogue between the UFMCC and the NCC. They have invited our input in preparation for their meeting in November in New Brunswick, N.J. In addition, a group of parliamentarians have concluded that MCC's application statue is as follows: our application remains on file - we may continue to update it, and we are the ones who will request the application to be reconsidered. We do not have to re-apply for membership. In the news recently, the NCC is recommending that Rev. Arie Brouwer, former head of the Reformed Church in America, and presently a deputy secretary of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, became the new general secretary of the National Council. Rev. Brouwer was a member of the NCC's Constituent Membership Committee during the last triennium when MCC's application came before them. He is highly regarded by liberals and conservatives alike on the Council as an outstanding ecumenical Christian and church leader.

A new publication of the Universal Fellowship, "The MCC Starter Kit" (which replaces, revises and greatly enhances the former "How To Start A Study Group") is on its way to the printer soon and will be available for sale no later than December 1, 1984. A special order form will be included in a future "Keeping in Touch."

Rev. Jim Mitulski reports that the Hymnody Committee had an exciting meeting over Labor Day weekend in Dallas, Tx. The committee is putting all the hymns on the Dallas computer - hymnody in UFMCC meets the technological age!

We are excited to welcome to our staff Mr. Jim Voltz, who is coordinating the 1985 General Conference in Sacramento, Ca. Registration materials and more information will be forthcoming in the next month or so - watch for it!

*** PRAISES ***

Rev. Bob Cunningham reports that the Ku Klux Klan is leafletting in the Galveston, Tx. area with threats against gays and lesbians. Keep the gay and lesbian community there in your prayers.

Please submit items for our "PRAISES" or your concerns to "Keeping in Touch," 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, Ca., 90029.

The Samaritan Management Team is accepting resumes for the Chair of the newly established Development Committee. The Chair will appoint Committee Members. The Committee is responsible for proposing and, with Team approval, conducting fundraising programs to insure the financial security of Samaritan Educational Ministries. The Team is interested in persons with professional fundraising experience, especially for educational institutions. Please send resumes to the following address by December 1, 1984. Samaritan Management Team
c/o Samaritan College
3327 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90004

Jean White also reports that she met with some interested individuals in Fitges, Spain, and Jean will return to meet with them in January. Pray for MCC in Europe!

Rev. Elder Jean White will also be visiting our churches in New Zealand and Southern Australia at the end of November and beginning of December.

Praise God for new Hispanic Americas congregation and outreaches in Tijuana, Mexico, Long Beach, Ca., the San Fernando Valley, Ca. and Dallas, Texas!

The Lesbian and Gay Interfaith Alliance will be meeting October 12-14, 1984 in San Francisco, Ca. Our representatives to this organization that we helped to found will be Elder Michael Mank, Carolyn Mobley (MCC Atlanta, Chair of our delegation), Ted Patterson (MCC Minneapolis) and Rev. Michael England (MCC San Francisco). The organization currently includes over 20 groups serving Gay and Lesbian Christians and Jews in North America.

Our churches in England and Denmark are planning to come to the Board of Elders in November asking to be made a District in the Universal Fellowship! Their plan is for the new churches in the rest of Europe to become a New European Extension Area.

Our love and prayers go out to Rev. Rob Shivers, whose father died recently. Expressions of concern and love may be sent to her c/o our church in Columbus, Ohio, P.O. Box 10009, Columbus, Ohio, 43201.

MCC Las Vegas has also purchased a building, and Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and Rev. Tom Jordan will be present to celebrate the weekend of October 12-14th.

MCC Detroit dedicates their new building this month! They welcome Rev. Elder Freda Smith to assist them in this important moment!

MCC Lafayette, Louisiana had a record attendance of 91 as they celebrated their Chartering with Rev. Elder Troy Perry.

Rev. Perry also reports that our new Study Group in Baton Rouge, Louisiana is growing under the capable direction of newly-licensed Rev. Ron Coons - they had 124 persons in attendance during Rev. Perry's recent visit.

WE HAVE A NEW MCC IN LEON, FRANCE! Rev. Elder Jean White just returned from 11 days in that country, and is pleased to announce the birth of a new group. They are meeting in a gay hotel in Leon, under the direction of a former Assemblies of God Pastor.

NEWS FROM NIGERIA

Our church Extension Coordinator, Rev. Sylvanus Maduka, writes earlier this summer:

"It is a pity to inform you that thieves made into the home of Mr. Anayo Nivosu, the Worship Coordinator for the Banchi, Gombe and Dadinkowa churches and made away with...many household items, his motor cycle, etc. The thieves hit him in the chest with a rifle and raped his wife and sister living with him.

The whole family are now in the hospital receiving treatment...The police in Gombe have arrested the men...Some one was sent from there to come and call me. We were able to provide them with some good items and a little money to live on while I contacted you. There is progress in every other church except the change in government that brought untold hardship to the masses of the country. Expression of support or assistance for Mr. Anayo and his family may be sent c/o Rev. Sylvanus Maduka or Rev. Elder Jean White, 56 Knight's Hill, West Norwood, London, England SE 27.

CORRECTION!

In addition to churches in the Southwest District, MCC of Greater Kansas City has been faithfully supporting Rev. Bob Arthur's ministry in Birmingham, England. Sorry for the omission last month!

RESUMES REQUESTED

The Board of Elders, in keeping with the mandate of General Conference, is looking at resumes for additional appointments to the Fellowship Finance Committee from qualified Third World persons.

The Fellowship Finance Committee meets at least once per year and at General Conferences to oversee the budget process for the Fellowship. Please include all information that would be relevant. If you have any questions feel free to call Elder Michael Mank (415) 648-6006 or Elder Nancy Wilson (213) 464-5100.

1968 — 1984 — 2000

"Celebrating Our Future!"

FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

October 7, 1984

**Hear Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry
preach!**

Details to follow!

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029





5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100

August 10, 1984

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

We are celebrating Fellowship Sunday on October 7 this year and I want to preach in your Church!

We are celebrating our 16th anniversary as a denomination, which also happens to be at the halfway point to the 21st Century--only 16 years to the year 2000, and I believe that it's our opportunity to "celebrate the future." This year for Fellowship Sunday I want to do something special--I want to preach in as many Metropolitan Community Churches as possible on that date.

It's only physically possible for me to be present in one Church service and, as I have traditionally done for the past 15 years, I will physically be preaching that Sunday at the Mother Church in Los Angeles. However, the same sermon that I am planning to preach there, I want to preach in your Church. I am in the process now of taping on audio cassette, the sermon that I will be preaching in the Los Angeles Church, and I would like your permission to preach in your Church that day by having you play the sermon as part of your worship service.

Enclosed you will find a card. If you are interested in having my 13-minute sermon as a part of your Church service on Fellowship Sunday, please fill out the enclosed card and send it back to us immediately. (We must receive them by August 25th). We are planning on purchasing a full-page ad in The Advocate, inviting people to hear my sermon which will be preached in Metropolitan Community Churches that Sunday. The ad will encourage people to visit their local Metropolitan Community Church. We want it to be a day of celebration when you will invite our members to bring in all their friends to introduce them to the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The ad will carry two listings, one for all the Churches where my sermon will be presented, as well as all the other Metropolitan Community Churches. We will list the Churches' names, locations, and phone numbers with worship times, inviting people to call for information. Also, a national press conference will be held to announce our plans for Fellowship Sunday, as well as our aspiration for U.F.M.C.C. in the 21st Century.

Also, as all of you know, Fellowship Sunday is the time of your yearly special "second offering" that our local Churches receive for the work of the U.F.M.C.C. At the end of my sermon I will ask for the offering--just have the ushers ready.

We need your support and participation to make Fellowship Sunday, 1984 successful. Please fill out the enclosed card today and mail it back to us. We will immediately send you a press kit, suggested order of worship, as well as all the other information for the publicity that we can generate for our denomination this year.

In Christ,

Rev. Troy D. Perry

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder



MEMORANDUM

TO: [Illegible]

FROM: [Illegible]

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[Illegible text block]

[Illegible text block]

[Illegible text block]

[Illegible text block]

APPROVED: [Illegible Signature]

[Illegible Signature]



- - - THANKS - - -

I am back from an exciting and productive trip to my home in India. Thank you for your support and love, both before and during my trip. I will soon let you know about Gay life and Christianity in India. Its, also, good to be back here!

From the Conference Coordinator

The excitement of General Conference is beginning to take affect in the Fellowship office as registration forms start coming in. A letter is going out to everyone who received the original registration packet next week. It announces a change in the "EARLY BIRD" registration deadline from January 31st to February 28th and the reduction of early non-delegate fees to \$75.00. We are hoping that many non-delegates will attend the conference along with delegates and enjoy the wonderful programs planned especially for them. Come to Conference "FREE TO BE" in Sacramento June 30 thru July 7 and join our Family Reunion.

YES! I want to subscribe to JOURNEY!

() \$16.80 for one year, USA, Canada and Mexico

() \$20.80 for one year outside USA, Canada & Mexico

Name

Street Address

City

Zip/Postal Code

Country

Please make all checks/money orders payable to UFMCC on a US Bank in US funds only. Send to: Journey Subscriptions, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

Get your personal copy or copies to give as gifts of Norman Pittenger's outstanding book, "Gay Lifestyles: A Christian Interpretation of Homosexuality and the Homosexual."

Hardcover \$5.25

Paperback \$2.50

Includes Shipping

OCTOBER
TOP 20 TITHES
Received by November 15th
(In Amount Given)

MCC Dallas, TX	\$ 1,650.06
MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	1,322.72
Agape MCC of Ft. Worth, TX	1,023.92
MCC Long Beach, CA	897.49
Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA	798.15
MCC Los Angeles, CA	656.34
MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO	587.53
MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO	548.12
MCC Seattle, WA	548.11
MCC of Greater Kansas City, MO	524.74
King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL	497.94
MCC San Jose, CA	459.85
MCC New York, NY	446.14
MCC San Antonio, TX	388.64
River City MCC, Sacramento, CA	363.14
Diablo Valley MCC, Concord, CA	333.00
Good Shepherd Parish MCC, Chicago, IL	323.86
All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN	319.85
MCC of the Pomona Valley, Ontario, CA	311.86
Joy MCC, Orlando, FL	307.56



OCTOBER 1984
TOP 20 TITHES
Received by November 15th
(Per Capita)

Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA	\$ 32.24
MCC Memphis, TN	25.69
Calvary MCC, Redwood City, CA	18.93
MCC San Jose, CA	18.77
Covenant MCC, Birmingham, AL	17.37
MCC Charlotte, NC	16.38
Agape of Ft. Worth, TX	15.87
MCC Cincinnati, OH	14.17
Christ the Liberator, Princeton, NJ	13.72
MCC of Northern Virginia, Oakton, VA	13.40
MCC Providence, RI	11.37
MCC Seattle, WA	11.29
MCC Anchorage, AK	11.15
New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC	10.82
MCC of the Palm Beaches, West Palm Beach, FL	10.77
MCC Sarasota/Bradenton, Sarasota, FL	10.58
Key West MCC, FL	10.21
Trinity MCC, New York, NY	10.20
Sojourner MCC, Ferndale, MI	9.59
River City MCC, Sacramento, CA	9.58

Prayerfully present this request for support of Bob Arthur's ministry in Birmingham, England to your Board of Directors then please advise me of your church's pledge as soon as you know.

NOVEMBER 1984
TOP 20 TITHES
Received by December 15
(In Amount Given)

God is truly at work within our midst.

In Peace and Love,

Rev. C. Jane Carl, Chair
Bob Arthur Support Fund
c/o MCC of the Pomona Valley
508 S. Euclid Ave.
Ontario, CA 91761

REMINDER

Ordination Candidates -- the deadline for ordination papers or the completed request for an extension is Feb. 1, 1985. Ordination papers must be in Boise by Feb. 1, with the original and two copies, or the Rev. Vierra must have your application for an extension by that date.

March 1, 1985 is the deadline for applications for exams, initial licensure, relicensure, and ordination candidacy. Remember, those of you who need your District Coordinator's evaluation -- They will have a lot of these to do and would appreciate receiving your forms -- in triplicate please -- as soon as possible.

They may not be able to complete any forms received after Feb. 1, 1985, in time to get them to Boise by March 1. You are responsible for making sure this is done expeditiously.

Clergy Credentials and Concerns Committee has a new address: 805 West Idaho, Suite 419
Boise, Idaho 83702
208/342-2175

* * * MONTHLY REPORT FORMS * * *

Please note the following procedure which should be followed for sending the Monthly Report Forms (ie Tithing forms):

- (1) White Copy - to UFMCC office
- (2) Yellow Copy - for the local Church
- (3) Pink Copy - for the District Coordinator or Coordinator of Church Ext.

MCC Dallas, TX	\$ 2,006.94
MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX	1,573.56
MCC San Diego, CA	1,489.19
Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Ft. Ldl., FL	1,067.96
MCC Long Beach, CA	859.42
MCC Seattle, WA	742.70
MCC Los Angeles, CA	734.70
MCC San Francisco, CA	630.65
Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA	608.83
MCC Portland, OR	597.52
MCC San Jose, CA	596.43
MCC of Greater St. Louis, MO	519.00
MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO	437.69
MCC San Antonio, TX	418.27
MCC of Greater Tulsa, OK	416.92
MCC of Greater Kansas City, MO	408.85
River City MCC, Sacramento, CA	393.48
MCC Washington, DC	377.45
All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN	374.12
MCC Detroit, MI	346.25

TO LOVE IS NOTHING
TO BE LOVED IS SOMETHING
TO LOVE AND BE LOVED
IS EVERYTHING!

NOVEMBER 1984
TOP 20 TITHES
Received by December 15th
(Per Capita)

MCC Hawaii, Honolulu, HI	\$ 28.89
MCC of Greater Rochester, NY	21.59
Diablo Valley MCC, Concord, CA	20.48
Apostles of God MCC, Huachuca City, AZ	15.89
Christ MCC, Miami, FL	15.31
Trinity MCC, New York, NY	14.82
MCC Richmond, VA	13.24
MCC Austin, TX	13.18
Calvary MCC, Redwood City, CA	12.98
MCC San Francisco, CA	12.92
MCC Seattle, WA	12.61
MCC Anchorage, AK	12.11
MCC Long Beach, CA	12.10
Christ the Liberator MCC, Princeton, NY	12.02
MCC New Orleans, LA	11.77
MCC Stockton, CA	11.67
MCC Detroit, MI	11.39
MCC Dallas, TX	11.31
Redeemer MCC of Flint, MI	11.28
MCC Providence, RI	11.28
MCC Washington, DC	10.88